

Darkness and Light Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Carol Service 2025 St Marc's

'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.'

We have heard a great deal about darkness in recent times. Our newspapers and television news seem to constantly resound with things that are dark; terrorism, murder, torture, drug dealing, abuse poverty and all sorts of things that can easily pull us down into a pit of despond.

Things were no different in the time of Isaiah. He prophesied when King Ahaz was on the throne of Judah. King Ahab was not a good king.

This was a time of wars and rumours of wars and this king's reign was considered disastrous, in more ways than one, but particularly in terms of bad decision making, the poverty of the people in life in general and particularly the religion of the people. This king cared nothing for the God of his fathers, preferring the idolatrous religion of his allies the Assyrians. He neglected the Temple, defaced the altar to the Lord, setting his faith in the predictions of astrologers, and offered his own son in sacrifice to the evil god Moloch.

Isaiah had asked the king to trust in God, but Ahaz had refused. Isaiah's prophecy therefore, was really one of hope to a desperate people;

'On them has light shined. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given'.

A child because this would be a human baby;

a Son because this reflected the divine nature of his Father;

a child who would be God.

'Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'

Perhaps your world is not dark. Maybe you have no worries or concerns. Perhaps you do not need a Saviour. Everyone, however, needs a Saviour because in this life darkness is always waiting for the light to go out, but the light will never go out because Jesus is the light of the world and an everlasting light, if you wish to receive him as such.